

King Hussein receives messages from President Sadat, Qadhafi

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein received a message today from President Anwar Sadat on the latest Middle East developments and efforts to achieve a just peace in the area. The message was transmitted by the Egyptian ambassador in Amman. The King also received a message from the leader of the Libyan Jamahiriya Mu'amar Qadhafi, praising the King's stand towards the Palestinian issue. The message was delivered by the Libyan ambassador to Jordan.

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The Majesty King Hussein is seen presiding over a Cabinet meeting Wednesday. (JNA photo)

King Hussein: Understanding reached with Carter on means of cooperation for peace

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein today told the cabinet that his consultations with President Carter on current Middle East peace moves had led to an "understanding regarding the means of future cooperation in the coming stage." He described the talks as frank and clear.

The King was briefing the cabinet during a meeting here on the results of his contacts with the American president and the Shah of Iran in Tehran. King Hussein said the people of Palestine must exercise the right of self-determination and that they must participate in forging their own future and in the process of achieving peace.

The key to the participation of all Arab parties in the peace process is to arrive at an agreement on the principles that will lead to a just settlement: total Israeli withdrawal, the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty and free self-determination for the people of Palestine, he was reported to have told the cabinet.

During the meeting the King stressed Jordan's national responsibilities and the duties it is discharging vis-a-vis Palestinian rights.

His Majesty said that, on the international arena, Jordan is trying to reach a just peace within the Arab framework and is seeking to bring the Arabs to form a united front. His Majesty stated that he did not see any positive aspects to the so-called Begin peace plan.

The King warned that Israel was trying to drain President Sadat's initiative of all positive results and drown it in a heap of procedural issues while claiming that Mr. Sadat's call for a comprehensive settlement was an "inflexible" position.

King Hussein also briefed the cabinet on his negotiations with the Shah of Iran, describing them as constructive and resulting in mutual agreement.

Before the cabinet meeting, the King met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf at the prime minister's office.

PLO official assassinated in London

LONDON, Jan. 4 (AFP). — Said Hammami, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation here was killed today by a man, of Arab origin, who burst into the Arab League London offices, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

Mr. Hammami, aged 40, was killed by a single bullet in the head as he sat in his office. The killer, armed with a pistol when he managed to get into Mr. Hammami's office shortly before 4:00 p.m. later escaped on foot.

Mr. Hammami a close friend of Mr. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader.

Considered to be a liberal, in 1975 he wrote a magazine article setting out a plan under which Palestinians might agree to make peace with Israel.

Mr. Hammami had been in secret contact with leading Israeli, Israel-Palestine Council for Peace member Uri Avneri said on Israeli Television today.

Mr. Avneri was referring to secret talks a few months ago between members of the council and Palestinian officials, and he said that Mr. Hammami envisaged a Palestinian state in coexistence on Israel's frontier.

Mr. Said Hammami first came to London about six years ago. After a two-year absence between 1972 and 1974, he returned to London under the watch of special guards following several threats against his life.

In a press communique in Beirut tonight the PLO referred to Mr. Hammami as "a Palestinian diplomat" and warned that "the killers will not escape punishment. The Palestinian revolution will track them down as well as the instigators of the crime for the blood of militants must never be shed with

Carter: Palestinians must share in deciding their own future

ASWAN, Egypt, Jan. 4 (R). — President Carter urged compromise over the Palestinian question today but stressed that a Middle East peace settlement must allow the Palestinians to take part in deciding their own future. His pronouncement, after a meeting here with President Anwar Sadat, came close to supporting Arab demands for self-determination for Palestinians on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the River Jordan and Gaza Strip.

The notion is viewed with suspicion in Israel.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said in Jerusalem today that self-determination for Palestinians would be "a mortal danger for Israel," and he would never agree to it.

But in Riyadh, where Mr. Carter spent last night and conferred with Saudi Arabian leaders, he was told that self-determination for Palestinians was an essential ingredient for Middle East peace.

Mr. Carter flew on to Paris after his 50-minute meeting here with President Sadat.

Mr. Carter's pronouncement here seemed open to a number of interpretations, ranging from a pledge to having Palestinian negotiators take part in peace moves, which they are at present refusing to do.

In a statement after his meeting with Mr. Sadat, Mr. Carter said:

"We believe that there are certain principles fundamental to which must be observed before a just and comprehensive peace can be achieved.

"First, true peace must be based on normal relations among the parties to the peace. Peace means more than just an end to belligerency.

"Second, there must be withdrawal by Israel from territories occupied in 1967 and agreement on secure and recognised borders for all parties in the context of normal and peaceful relations in accordance with United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

"And third, there must be a resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. The resolution of the problem must recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and enable the Palestinians to participate in the determination of their own future.

President Carter added: "Some flexibility is always needed to ensure successful negotiations and the resolution of conflicting views."

After Mr. Carter's departure from Riyadh this morning, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal told reporters that King Khaled had informed the American president that he believed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must fulfil two conditions:

— complete Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

— realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, including self-determination and return of refugees.

President Sadat, speaking to newsmen after Mr. Carter's statement here said they had reached "perfect agreement". In a separate statement earlier he had said: "Our views were identical and we have agreed upon certain steps to keep the momentum of the peace process." He would not elaborate.

"Let us wait until (January) the 15th," he said.

In another move calculated to please Egypt, President Carter said the U.S. intended to "play an active role in work of the political committee of Cairo which will soon reconvene in Jerusalem."

Egypt has been pressing the U.S. to take a more active role in the search for a Middle East peace.

At their talks in Ismailia, Mr. Sadat and Mr. Begin formed a political and a military committee to thrash out their differences. The committees are part of the Cairo conference set up by Mr. Sadat to prepare for a Geneva peace conference.

Today Mr. Sadat made clear that his invitation to Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the PLO and the Soviet Union, who have not attended the Cairo talks was still open. They were welcome whenever they found it convenient to come, he said.

Mr. Carter and Mr. Sadat appeared close in their approach to the Middle East problem, both believing principles and fundamentals should be agreed on first.

Mr. Sadat, asked whether the three principles enunciated by Mr. Carter were the same he wanted to announce jointly with Mr. Begin in Ismailia replied: "Quite right." A joint declaration of intent expected following the Ismailia talks never materialised. Egypt said afterwards it was because of disagreement over the Palestinian issue.

Asked if he and Mr. Carter agreed to give some rights to the Palestinians to determine their future, Mr. Sadat said: "They (the Palestinians) should participate in the determination."

Senior Egyptian presidential officials said yesterday that Egypt was not asking for the immediate creation of a Palestinian state.

The officials said Egypt could accept the idea of a homeland as an initial step but "the Palestinians must have the right to determine whether to be independent or establish a link with Jordan -- which Egypt still favours."

White House spokesman Jody Powell told newsmen in Aswan during the talks that there was no departure from past U.S. policy. Mr. Carter's statement was ready before the talks started -- informed sources said.



LEADERS CONSULT — President Jimmy Carter of the United States (left) and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, laugh and talk together during their airport meeting at Aswan on Wednesday after President Carter arrived from Saudi Arabia and before he left for France. (AP wirephoto)

Carter outlines "Agenda for Democracy"

PARIS, Jan. 4 (AFP). — President Jimmy Carter today proposed a five-point "new agenda for democracy" in order to meet the challenges of the world, to promote social justice and development and to guarantee security.

In a speech before leading French and American figures at the Palais des Congrès convention hall, Mr. Carter said the "first task" of the Western World should be to "devise ways in which government and social institutions can better and more quickly respond to the higher standards of leadership and service demanded by our people."

The second item on Mr. Carter's agenda called for world democracies to "restore growth, control inflation and reduce unemployment."

He said that the United States was "able and willing to join with its partners in building on (their) strength, to build the global economy on the path to growth and rising prosperity."

"America's efforts," he pledged, "will be directed toward maintaining the strength of the dollar, injecting new purchasing power into the economy through a major tax cut, reducing unemployment and bringing inflation under control."

Mr. Carter's "third task" for democracy was to provide for mutual security. He noted: "Military power without detente may lead to conflict, but detente would be impossible without the NATO alliance and popular support for a strong defence."

He stressed that "the commitment of the American government and people to the security of Europe is absolute. There should be no doubt that we will maintain in Europe whatever forces are needed to meet that commitment."

European unity was the fourth point on Mr. Carter's agenda for democracy, and he pledged America's "unqualified support" to that goal, "for we see European strength and unity as a boon and not as a threat to us."

The fifth and final item, he said, "is to cooperate among ourselves in adapting to global change. Stressing the need to re-order north-south relations, Mr. Carter urged that 'councils of economic action' be expanded to developing countries."

Within two hours of his arrival here today President Carter went into talks with French leader Valéry Giscard d'Estaing for talks on major international issues which lasted 90 minutes.

The first session between the two presidents covered East-West relations, the north-south negotiations, the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks and the Middle East situation, an American communique said.

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Council discusses loans to farmers

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The activities of all credit institutions in the field of agriculture were reviewed this evening during the first meeting of the Jordanian Development Credit Council, chaired by Crown Prince Hassan.

The meeting was held at the new Housing Bank head office in Abdali.

The council also reviewed the financial resources of those institutions and the possibility of backing them to face agricultural development requirements.

The participants then discussed the interest that should be paid on loans granted by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and the Agricultural Credit Association.

The possibility of reducing administrative expenses of agricultural credit institutions through coordinating their work was also discussed.

Crown Prince Hassan delivered a short speech during the session asserting the importance of developing agriculture in the Kingdom through financial backing.

Sterling touches 22-month record

LONDON, Jan. 4 (R). — With a record low level of 2.0625 marks on the Frankfurt exchange.

Yesterday it had been fixed there at 2.0645 marks.

The Bundesbank's intervention, second largest since the dollar's weakness began last September, was interpreted by dealers as a sign that the bank was determined to prop up the dollar more strongly than it has done for the last few weeks.

In the early afternoon, sterling was trading at around \$1.9780 in London. The dollar stood at 2.0640 marks, 1.9200 Swiss francs and 4.6225 French francs.

The pound, meanwhile, appeared to be gaining over all the key European currencies. The effective index for sterling, which measures its performance compared with end-of-1971 levels of a group of leading currencies, improved from 66.1 to 66.6 at midday.

Reflecting the general uncertainty over the dollar's fall, the price of gold continued to go up today.

Yesterdays it had reached \$169.5 an ounce, its highest since May 1975, and today it went up again to \$172.50 per ounce.

Sterling -- which a year ago needed to be propped up by a loan from the international Monetary Fund (IMF) -- is now more than 13 cents above the best level which most experts had predicted it could reach in 1978.

U.S. Treasury intervenes

The U.S. Treasury Department today announced an agreement on foreign exchange swapping with the West German Bundesbank aimed at stepping up U.S. interventions on exchange markets.

"The exchange stabilisation fund of the U.S. Treasury will henceforth be utilized actively together with the \$20 billion swap network of the federal reserve system," the department said in a brief communique.

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PLO not placated by Carter's new statement

BEIRUT, Jan. 4 (R). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation today rejected President Carter's latest attempts to bolster Middle East peace moves initiated by President Anwar Sadat. The PLO reacted coldly to the U.S. president's statement in support of Palestinian rights, saying America was still seeking a settlement which fell far short of Palestinian demands.

Algerian and Iraqi leaders meeting in Baghdad meanwhile discussed preparations for a proposed summit of hardline Arab states determined to frustrate Egypt's peace initiative with Israel.

Arab diplomatic sources here said Mr. Carter's remarks, after talks with President Sadat in Egypt, had failed to tone down widespread anger over his announcement last week that he did not favour the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

"There is nothing new in the American attitude," PLO information chief Majed Abu Sharrar said here in a comment on Mr. Carter's statement in Aswan today.

"American policy still insists on ignoring the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people," Mr. Abu Sharrar told Reuters.

In Baghdad, Algerian President Houari Boumedienne and Iraqi President Ahmad Hassan Al Bakr today discussed moves to concert Arab opposition to current Middle East peace moves, the Iraq News Agency reported.

Boumedienne flies to Saudi Arabia

President Boumedienne arrived in Riyadh later in the day on a private visit to King Khalid Ibn Abdulaziz, Riyadh Radio reported.

President Boumedienne had been scheduled to visit Kuwait today, but that trip was postponed for unspecified reasons. A well informed source in Kuwait said the postponement had been caused by "new developments that emerged in talks with Iraqi leaders."

Begin satisfied with Carter-Sadat meeting

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 4 (Agencies). — Prime Minister Menachem Begin today said what he called a "very friendly" telephone conversation with President Carter.

Mr. Carter called the Prime Minister from Air Force One shortly after takeoff from his meeting in Aswan with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Speaking to reporters outside his office at the Knesset (parliament), Mr. Begin said he was happy to learn that Mr. Sadat had expressed friendly sentiments towards him.

"It is reciprocal," said Mr. Begin. "We have found a common language and this is excellent for the pursuit of our peace negotiations."

He expressed satisfaction that first reports of the Carter-Sadat meeting made no mention of discussions on the creation of a Palestinian state.

Prime Minister Begin also said today that Palestinians can not have self-determination "as the term is understood in international law and practice."

Mr. Begin said that a Palestinian state would represent "a mortal danger for Israel."

"The Palestine Liberation Organisation would take it over in no time and turn it into a Soviet base," he added.

He told Reuters in answer to questions: "There is no change in the military situation in which Vietnamese troops are invading Cambodia, but the Cambodian revolutionary army troops are driving the Vietnamese troops out of Cambodia."

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National News Roundup

More telex lines soon?

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The Telecommunications Corporation has adopted a new plan which aims at enlarging the telex exchange and telex services. The corporation's director general said the plan includes the addition of 300 telex numbers to the present exchange which accommodates 500 numbers. He added that the corporation will establish a new electronic exchange costing JD 1,500,000. No date was given for the completion of the expansion programme.

Jordan invited to dialogue session

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The Jordanian government today received an invitation from the Arab League to take part in the Arab-European dialogue session scheduled to open on Jan. 29 in Cairo.

Family planning delegation leaves

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The delegation of the International Planned Parenthood Federation left here today after a seven-day visit during which its members looked over the activities of the Jordanian Family Planning Association and visited the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and other institutions.

Aqaba committee to meet

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The special Cabinet committee for the development of Aqaba south coast will meet at the Ministry of Tourism tomorrow to discuss the needs for the implementation of this project. The committee consists of the minister of tourism, the minister of industry and trade, the minister of rural and municipal affairs, and the chairman of the National Planning Council.

Farhan appointed to Saudi council

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The President of the University of Jordan Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan was today appointed a member in the Higher Council for the Saudi Islamic University.

Jordanian-Syrian committee will meet

DAMASCUS, Jan. 4 (SANA). — The periodic meeting of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Coordination Committee will be held here on Jan. 15 to discuss the necessary moves for implementing its goals.

Jordanian-Yugoslav trade talks

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — Jordan and Yugoslavia will sign a commercial agreement on trade exchange during talks between the two sides which will start Jan. 15 in Belgrade. The Jordanian delegation to the talks comprises the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Najmeddine Dajani, the Jordanian ambassador in Belgrade and senior officials.

Special TV programmes for the under six-year-olds?

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — The University of Jordan will take part in the Educational Television Seminar to be held in Kuwait on March 1, to discuss an educational television programme for children under the age of 6.

Air agreement with Egypt to be modified

AMMAN, Jan. 4 (JNA). — A Civil Aviation delegation will leave for Cairo on Jan. 15 for talks with Egyptian officials on the modification of the 1952 air transport agreement between the two countries.

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BBC Arabic Service enters its 40th year more mature

By Hamilton Duckworth,
Head of the BBC Arabic
Service

LONDON, (BBC) — A 40th anniversary carries with it some implications of maturity. An enterprise that has existed so long must have acquired some tradition, an authentic character, at least it has been tried and tested by time. Moreover it has certainly been in service longer than any of its present members and many people must have contributed to its work.

History

Broadcasting in Arabic from the U.K. by the BBC began on Jan. 3, 1938. It was the first foreign language service to go out from this country, although the Empire Service, as it was then called, in English had begun in 1932. It was a time when broadcasting across national frontiers was a new notion and broadcasting itself had existed as a realistic possibility for less than 20 years. The BBC had come into existence in only 1927. Radio sets were large and cumbersome and often needed heavy batteries. Even "radio" and "broadcasting" were not yet assured usage. Paradoxically the BBC had already introduced the first T.V. service in the world in London in 1936, an event of quite staggering technical advancement.

It was still an age of empires and most of the Arab countries which were able to hear these early transmissions of the BBC Arabic Service were in an imperial relationship with either Britain or France. It follows that in the 40 years of its existence the service has reflected a world of unprecedented change and not surprisingly the extent and techniques of broadcasting have themselves changed almost beyond recognition.

It was, in fact, as a response to the broadcasts of the Axis powers in Arabic from Bari in Italy that the British government of the day asked the BBC to initiate transmissions in Arabic from London and this of course was because Britain perceived a threat to the security of her imperial communications in the Mediterranean. The BBC's Charter already made this constitutionally possible because it

allowed the BBC to broadcast not only in Britain but for the benefit of British dominions and territories under its protection. This first transmission was for 25 minutes daily.

The subsequent history of external broadcasting -- and with it the Arabic Service -- falls into two main periods. The first is the explosive expansion which took place during the war as the need grew to expound the allied cause and counter the propaganda of the Axis powers. During this period services were developed in most European languages as well as many other world languages. By mid-1944 Arabic had expanded to three hours daily. By the time the European war ended external broadcasting had come of age and was practised by many nations of the world and the second main period of its history in the U.K. begins.

The existing BBC Charter of 1937 -- the second -- had not envisaged this massive development of overseas broadcasting and it was the third charter of the BBC in 1947 which authorised the BBC to provide broadcasting services for reception in other countries and places outside the British Commonwealth and thus external broadcasting from the U.K. in its full modern guise was formally established.

Each successive charter of the BBC has re-affirmed this constitutional position up to the present day. By 1952 the Arabic Service had become four hours per day, by 1957 nine and a half, and by 1959 twelve. This considerable expansion no doubt reflected the complexity of Britain's post-colonial relationships and the increasing world importance of the Arab area. 1957 saw the reduction of the service to ten hours and 1976 to nine which is where it stands today.

Independence operation

It is not always realised that the BBC External Services -- the Arabic Service among them -- have exactly the same constitution as the domestic services. Essentially the BBC is a body set up in such a way that it may operate independently of governments, political parties and vested interests of any kind, but which is still responsible ultimately to the sovereign will of parliament.

The rules by which it operates are called a charter, and the charter is granted by parliament for a number of years. The present charter is the fifth and it is due to expire in 1979. Thus though independent of influence, the BBC is subject to periodic scrutiny by the legislature and in this way the responsible exercise of its power is assured. It is a peculiarly British arrangement and so far it has worked successfully. The BBC has succeeded in preserving the independence and with it the objectivity that the authors of the charter arrangement originally intended. It might be supposed that such international reputation as it has, stems essentially from these highly satisfactory constitutional provisions.

Just as the External Services are one of the three main parts of the BBC -- the others being television and domestic radio -- so the Arabic Service, although it is the largest, is only one of the 38 foreign language services broadcast from Britain, apart from the World Service in English. Its function is the same as theirs, to broadcast objective news and views and to describe the life and times of the people of these islands. It holds on views of its own -- indeed the BBC is constitutionally by its charter debarred from having editorial views. It seeks, as objectively and professionally as possible, to present to listeners an account of what is going on in the world, and it does this in ways that respect the tastes and preferences of its audience.

It has, of course, over the 40 years built up an unrivalled experience of broadcasting to its widespread audience. To begin with, Arabs from many countries have come to London to join the staff and they have given the Arabic Service very freely of their own knowledge and expertise. Not a few, later in life, have achieved distinction in various fields -- apart from broadcasting -- such as diplomacy, government, education and business. Equally, great numbers of Arab visitors pass through the London and Middle East studios year after year and record their voices for broadcast, or merely tell what they think, thus adding to the diversity and richness of the programmes.

Up-to-date programmes

Tapes reach the service continually from virtually every Arab country so that the Arabic Service can present its listeners with a vivid and contemporary account of some of the most important developments in the Arab World. However, to report the world as it is does not exclude the many aspects of cultural life and we are zealous to record literature, poetry, drama and music by its living practitioners as well as to recollect the artistry of the past by cleaning it from our archives.

All this work is conducted by a team of highly professional Arab men and women from many countries and the service's policy is to encourage recruits as widely as possible. If voices from Arab countries of the central Middle East are most often heard this would not be surprising, but colleagues might join us from time to time from countries as widely separated as Oman and Mauritania. The service broadcast is essentially a unitary one -- and in this it surely represents the true aspirations of the Arab World -- but it also reflects as widely as it can the individual of each Arab country.

The BBC believes that the producer should have and be seen to have responsibility for his programme. Good programmes generally do not come out of committees, and the sooner the individual can after initial training take responsibility for his own chosen material and acquires his own assessment of the taste and judgement of the listener, the sooner he is likely to find himself on good terms with the listener. A number of Arabic Service listener-participation programmes give excellent examples of this two-way traffic, one of the most obvious being *Listener's Forum* which has for almost the whole of the 40 years been the listeners' own programme and one of the best guides to listeners' attitudes to the Arabic Service.

Listeners to our programmes in the first week of January, details of which are outlined in the accompanying release, will be able to catch some of the flavour of the times on which the BBC Arabic Service has reported.

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Tourism boom likely to continue; amid worry over “tourist saturation”

TOURISM TAKES OFF

175 million

% of population	0.3	1.1	6.0	7.0	13.0	22.0
	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000

Region	Number of People
North America	20
Western Europe	14
Australia	7
Japan	3
South America	1
the rest of the world	0.5

Most of it is spent on air fares and accommodation with the balance going on allied items including food, shopping and entertainment; an example of the "multiplier" effect of tourism spending that ripples far and wide through the economy, and makes it one of the most significant industries for the future maintenance of national and international wealth.

In some countries, notably Spain, Mexico and numerous Caribbean islands, tourism is the most vital export of all. The position was similar in Lebanon and Cyprus until the recent civil wars (although Cyprus has made a swift recovery and expects to have hosted 50,000 inclusive-tourists by the end of 1972).

World travellers' originating from America will probably be three times the present level by the year 2000. Prominent among those countries likely to benefit from the continuing boom in tourism are Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina, Brazil, Southern

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Extreme rightwingers reportedly sabotaged Air India's Jumbo jet

BOMBAY, Jan. 4 (Agencies) — The Air India Boeing 747 Jumbo jet that blew up on New Year's Day, killed all 213 aboard, may have been sabotaged by an extreme rightwing Indian group, sources close to Bombay Airport authorities said today.

The sources quoted the authorities as saying that the rightists had threatened to attack an Air India airliner in a message sent to the airline's London office on Dec. 28.

The sources identified the rightwing group as the "People's Revolutionary Organisation for Universal Truth," known

here as the "International Proletarian Organisation," which is linked to the Hindu Anand Marg sect.

The group has reportedly attacked several Indian diplomats stationed abroad, including in the United States and Britain, in recent months in an effort to obtain the release from prison of Anand Marg's leader P. R. Sarkar, who was jailed 18 months ago on charges of having killed several former supporters.

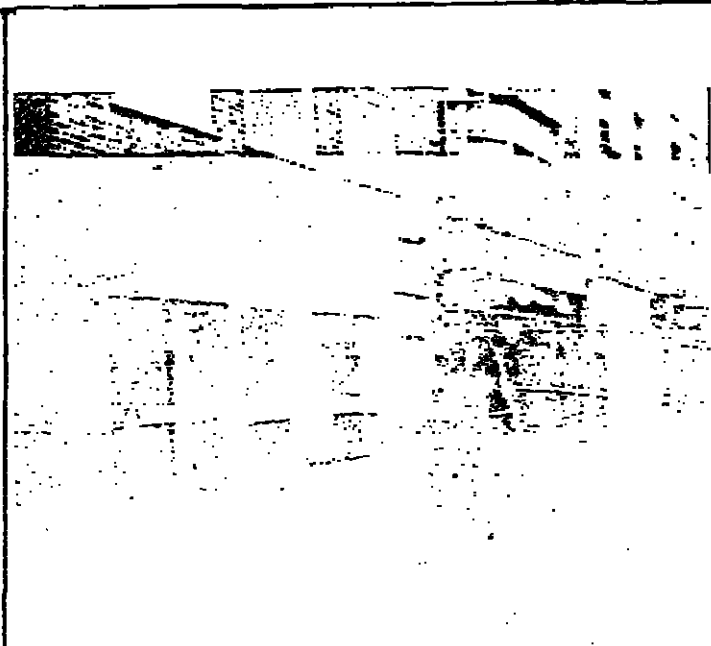
Since Air India received the threatening message, it has conducted stricter checks on all flights. The Boeing 747

which was destroyed on Sunday evening had been delayed at take-off for the checks.

Reports at the time said the airliner, which was bound for Dubai, was held up for 12 hours due to engine trouble.

The plane was carrying 179 Indian, two American and nine Arab passengers, in addition to 23 crews.

The disaster, aviation history's third worst and India's worst crash, occurred when the Jumbo jet exploded in mid-air and plunged into the sea shortly after take-off from Bombay's Santa Cruz International Airport on Sunday night.



TURKISH TARGET — The area surrounding the Turkish Bank in the Haringey district of north London is taped off following a bomb blast at the bank on Tuesday. Windows at the bank were shattered but no one was hurt. An Armenian group claimed responsibility for this and another blast in Brussels on the same day. (AP wirephoto)

ELF alters claim of airport's fall

ROME, Jan. 4 (R). — The Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) said today it had stopped Ethiopia's massive airlift to its besieged garrison in Asmara by shelling the airport's runway.

Asmara, capital of Eritrea and the second largest city in Ethiopia, is one of only four or five towns in the northern region still in government hands.

An ELF spokesman, Mr. Habtegiorgis Abraha, clarified his statement yesterday that the Eritreans had seized control of the airport when asked about denials by three Ethiopian Em-

bassies. He said: "We mean by control that we have stopped all flights. We have not occupied it. But it is in ELF control."

Meanwhile, Somali forces said today they killed more than 150 Ethiopians in a battle at Grawa about 40 kms. southwest of the strategic city of Harar in eastern Ethiopia.

Danab, the newspaper of the Western Somali Liberation Front, did not say when the battle took place, but Ethiopia reported fierce fighting at Grawa in the second half of December.

The Ethiopian News Agency ENA said then that its forces had killed nine Somalis in the fighting.

Somali forces, heavily backed by the Mogadishu government, have captured more than 90 per cent of the territory they claim from Ethiopia in the Ogaden region.

Ecevit's cabinet due soon

ANKARA, Jan. 4 (R). — President-designate Süleyman Ecevit and his supporters today declared themselves ready to form a government to "bring peace and unity" to Turkey.

A declaration signed by Mr. Ecevit, leader of the social democratic Republican People's Party (RPP), a group of independent parliamentarians, and two small parties said security ranked high among the priorities of the new government, expected to be announced tomorrow.

The declaration, which also covered foreign policy and economic matters, was issued after talks between Mr. Ecevit and potential supporters.

Mr. Ecevit, 52, was asked to form his third government on Sunday following the defeat in parliament of the rightwing coalition of outgoing Premier Süleyman Demirel.

Filipinos killed in separate army clashes with police, rebels

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines, Jan. 4 (R). — At least seven people were killed today in a gunfight between army troops and paramilitary Constabulary, while fighting also flared between government forces and Moslem rebels in the southern Philippines.

The gunfight followed an argument which broke out when a detachment of 11 Constabulary reached a waterfront checkpoint and refused to be stopped by army soldiers manning it in the south of the country.

Some of the Constabulary were later being held by the troops at their position in an 18th century Spanish fort.

Last November the two forces fought a three-hour gun-battle, though there were no deaths then.

Meanwhile, the Southern Command spokesman said troops had overrun a large Moslem rebel camp in the rugged central mountains of Basilan Island near Zamboanga City

and "a considerable number" of rebels had been killed.

On Jolo Island, 100 miles further southwest in the Sulu group, six soldiers were killed in two separate ambushes mounted by the rebels yesterday, military sources said.

Jolo Island has become the centre of renewed fighting between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government forces since a shaky ceasefire finally broke down towards the end of last year.

In one incident three young conscript troops were ambushed and killed as they entered the village where a brigadier general and 34 other officers and men were massacred last October.

In another encounter yesterday, three other soldiers and four rebels were killed in the same area.

Informed sources said that heavy fighting was going on at Maidong on Jolo Island, but this was denied by a Southern Command spokesman.

Giscard plans straight talk with Carter

PARIS, Jan. 4 (R). — President Carter's visit to France, the United States' oldest ally, will produce some straight talking on nuclear problems, both industrial and military.

France applauds the Carter administration's objectives of preventing the spread of nuclear and conventional weapons, but says it is determined to protect its own vital defence and economic interests.

Mr. Carter and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing will have a total of four hours of private talks during the three-day visit which started today.

Besides nuclear policy, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's peace moves in the Middle East and the difficult problems facing the world economy, will figure prominently in the discussions.

Without oil resources of its own, France has staked its industrial future on the development of nuclear energy. But President Giscard d'Estaing is expected by officials here to emphasise to President Carter that France will take care to avoid exporting nuclear weapons technology and materials.

Nuclear issue

France's nuclear programme includes fast-breeder reactors, the construction and export of which is opposed by the U.S. because their plutonium

by-product can be used to make atom bombs.

Militarily, France is determined to preserve its independent nuclear strike force, and to conduct underground tests if needed to keep it up to date.

French officials briefing reporters on the Carter visit said France faced the problem of preserving the credibility of its nuclear deterrent when both the United States and the Soviet Union were technically so far advanced that they could continue to perfect their atomic arsenals without resorting to further tests.

The nuclear issue caused tensions earlier this week during President Carter's talks with Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai because of Indian reluctance to accept additional safeguards against the spread of nuclear technology to other countries.

One of the French sources said none of the United States' Western allies had a closer interest than France in the expanding range of security and arms control issues being discussed between Washington and Moscow.

In a television interview broadcast in the U.S. on New Year's Day, President Giscard d'Estaing said there were some fears in Europe that if Moscow and Washington reached new strategic arms limitation agreements, the Ameri-

cans would reduce their military commitment in Europe.

While the French president said he did not share this fear, he suggested Mr. Carter's visit to France would be a suitable occasion for a clear restatement of the United States' commitment to European security.

Arms sales issue

On curbing arms sales, France will need convincing that controls can be universally applied, including in Communist countries.

"There is no point in our accepting restrictions if others go on selling," one official said. Although France occupies third place after the United States and the Soviet Union among world arms suppliers, its share of the market is only four per cent.

President Giscard d'Estaing will discuss with Mr. Carter France's impending disarmament initiative — a reversal of policies pursued under the late Gen. Charles de Gaulle — to be launched at the special United Nations session on disarmament in May.

The French proposals, yet to be spelled out in detail, will aim to achieve both qualitative and quantitative arms reductions for all nations, subject to effective international controls.

Mideast issue

On the Middle East, President Giscard d'Estaing will outline his views on the role of big powers including the Soviet Union in providing guarantees for the area once peace talks between the Arabs and Israel are sufficiently far advanced.

The French leader has said security guarantees could include pledges by the major powers not to sell sophisticated weapons in the region.

France itself is one of the Middle East's biggest arms suppliers.

Talking informally with French journalists at a New Year reception yesterday, President Giscard d'Estaing said his talks with Mr. Carter would also cover France's "serious concern about the state of disorganisation now existing in the world economy."

French officials said their government was anxious to examine ways of correcting the huge American trade deficit and the growing Japanese export surplus.

Prime Minister Raymond Barre will be holding talks on this problem with Mr. Robert Strauss, special U.S. Representative for International Trade Negotiations, during Mr. Carter's visit here.

The Dutch finally have a government but...

Eight months after its previous administration fell, Holland now has a coalition government in power. The new cabinet faces many problems, not least unemployment and international trade rivalry. Can it hold the fort with its scarcely workable majority? And how will it tackle the nation's economic difficulties?

By Nick Cole

THE HAGUE — The assumption of office by Holland's new centre-right government has brought to an end an eight-month interregnum, which one political observer wryly summarised as "the national pastime of governing without a government."

The last, mainly socialist, administration under Premier Joop den Uyl fell in March, since then the Netherlands has been in the hands of a caretaker government.

The setting-up of a government follows agreement between the Christian Democratic Party and the rightwing VVD Liberal Party on the sharing of cabinet ministers and state secretaries.

The Christian Democrats have supplied 10 ministers, including the Prime Minister Andries van Agt, and the Liberals six. No one cares to

predict how long the new coalition will rule, for it commands a scarcely workable majority in the Dutch parliament.

Nevertheless, few sections of Holland's 13.6 million population are happier with the return to discernible government than the country's businessmen, who feel that new initiatives are necessary to maintain the economy's present rate of growth.

Holland is, on the surface, one of the most successful and prosperous members of the European Economic Community: a rich and fertile country as famous for its commercial and industrial progress as for its tulips; a country that has literally grown in the last 30 years by reclaiming land from the North Sea which runs the entire length of its eastern coastline.

More than half the country lies below sea level; but the

sea, once an enemy, has been the key to Holland's new wealth.

Every eight minutes, a freight liner arrives or leaves Rotterdam's Europoort, the largest port in the world. It handles over 300 million tons of goods annually, equivalent to two-thirds of all ship cargoes handled in Britain.

With such trading, distribution and service capabilities, Holland takes just pride in its reputation as "the China of Europe."

Dominating the centre of Europe, which extends 25 miles along either side of the Rhine estuary, are the floating rain hoppers which, in the words of an older Rotterdam resident, "kept us alive during World War II; they were our main source of food."

Obsolete and rusting beside the massive modern cargo-handling facilities, they are kept as an affectionate memorial to "Dutch courage" against the hated Nazi invaders.

Germans are still strongly resented. No Dutchman likes to be reminded of the affinities of his language with that of "the Hun"; the natural friendliness of the people becomes a mask of icy politeness in the face of tourists from Deutschland; and, at the mere mention of the word "Germany", bar-owners will show you framed proclamations from wartime promising the death penalty for anyone found not to be working "for the greater glory of the Fatherland."



ANDRIES VAN AGT
Dutch Prime Minister

The recent trial and imprisonment of the art dealer war criminal Pieter Menten has been an unpleasant reminder of the past.

Ironically, Holland is today one of West Germany's best customers; around 35 per cent of its imports come from there. But it is anxious to reduce its dependence on that nation and to improve its trade position with other fellow-members of the EEC and the NATO alliance.

The Dutch people have been swift to exploit the unique advantage of their geographic location as "the gateway to Europe". Yet their wealth has been won at a high price.

Intensive industrialisation has generated higher personal expectations, and consequently higher social service charges, and labour costs.

Quality housing, medical facilities, transport and a wide choice of consumer goods have had to be paid for. Deductions from salary for social services are among the highest anywhere in Europe.

The combined effect has been to render Holland's highly-priced manufactured goods increasingly uncompetitive in world markets. "We are already living the post-industrial world where, because of the 'push-button' factor, four times as much can be produced as before, for the same price," comments a leading industrialist.

"There is the same demand for products as before, but not the same need for labour. How are we to compete against the cheap imported goods from America, Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea?"

So, not only have Holland's goods become uncompetitive, but there are fewer jobs available as well, and the looming threat from the impending end of natural gas resources, until now a mainstay of the Dutch economy.

Holland, like Britain, is already moving away from being an industry-based society to one that recognises its value as a services and distribution centre, with the stress on facilities like banking, insurance and brokerage.

In the interests of the continued wealth and well-being of its residents, Holland's businessmen want the new government to continue a sympathetic tax policy and general support for industry and commerce so that the nation can maintain its premier trading position, one which thrives on contact with all corners of the globe.

World News Briefs

Storm floods several Israeli areas

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4 (AFP). — Several towns have been flooded and areas have been cut off by the heavy storm throughout the country that reached its height on Monday night. Work went on throughout the night yesterday repairing electric cables and telephone lines brought down by the storm, and removing fallen trees off roads. Further problems were caused by malfunctioning traffic lights.

Carter to close military bases in U.S.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4 (AFP). — The U.S. Department of Defense plans to close down a number of military bases in the United States to save up to \$300 million, it was learned yesterday. The Carter administration expects strong resistance to this economy move from congressmen in whose constituencies the threatened bases are located. Closing them down would cost jobs and hurt local businesses. The last large-scale closure of bases was ordered by President Gerald Ford two years ago.

European Parliament's head in Israel

LUXEMBOURG, Jan. 4 (R). — Mr. Emilio Colombo, President of the Common Market's European Parliament, starts a three-day official visit to Israel today during which he will meet the Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, an official statement said. It added that Mr. Colombo would also attend a sitting of the Knesset and hold talks with Israeli Knesset members responsible for contacts with the European Parliament.

Edward Kennedy meets Teng Hsiao-ping

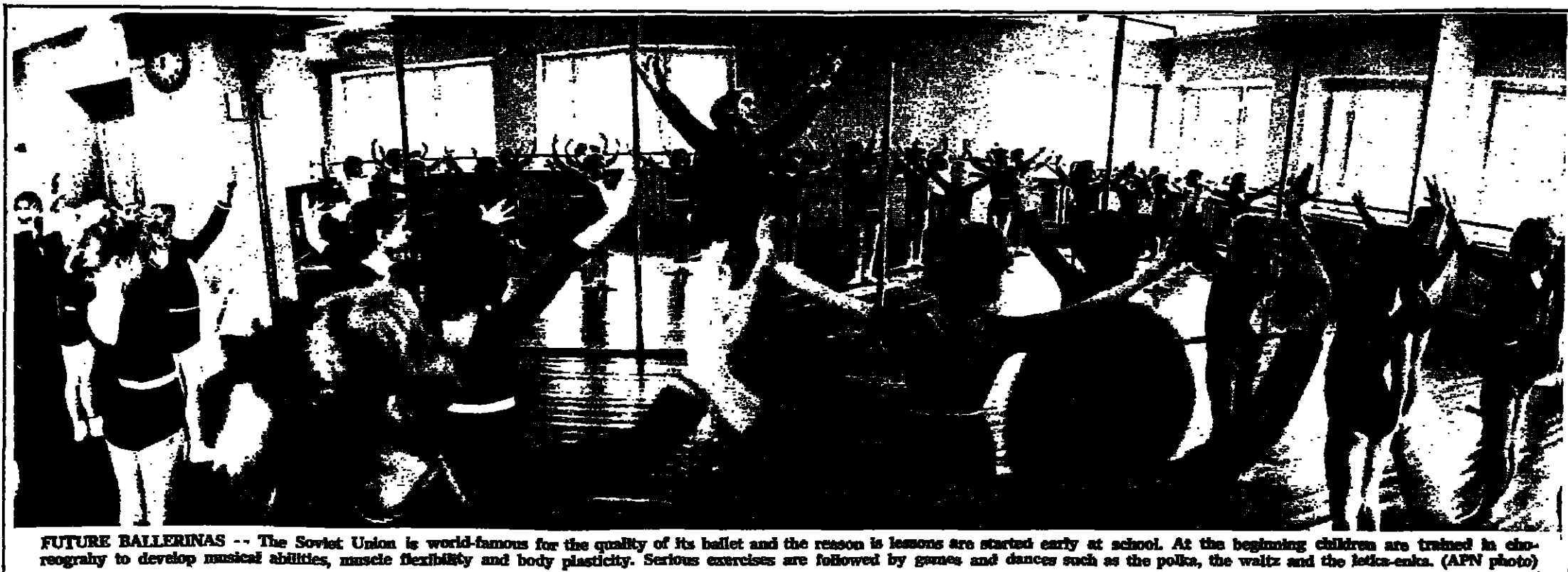
PEKING, Jan. 4 (AFP). — United States Sen. Edward Kennedy today ended his stay in Peking with a round of talks with Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. Sen. Kennedy (Democrat, Massachusetts) had a 90-minute talk with Mr. Teng. A Kennedy aide said. Like previous meetings between Sen. Kennedy and Chinese leaders, including yesterday's meetings with Foreign Minister Huang Hua and Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang, the substance of the talks between the senator and the vice premier has not been made public for the moment. The Kennedy delegation, which leaves the capital tomorrow for a tour of the provinces, was tonight attending a dinner given by its host, the Chinese People's Institute for Foreign Affairs.

Sharjah Radio joins UAE station

ABU DHABI, Jan. 4 (R). — Sharjah, in the United Arab Emirates, has decided to merge its broadcasting station with the federal broadcasting station in Abu Dhabi, the Emirates News Agency reported last night. Radio Sharjah will stop broadcasting independent programmes and begin relaying those of Abu Dhabi Radio, Information Minister Ahmad Ibn Hamed said.

Jail for accepting bribes in USSR

MOSCOW, Jan. 4 (R). — A Soviet hotel manager who pretended there were no free rooms and then provided visitors with accommodation in return for bribes, has been sentenced to eight years in a labour camp, Pravda said today. The Communist Party newspaper said two other employees of the Rossiya Hotel in Tashkent, Central Asia, had also received eight year terms, while a third had her sentence cut to four years on appeal.



FUTURE BALLERINAS — The Soviet Union is world-famous for the quality of its ballet and the reason is lessons are started early at school. At the beginning children are trained in choreography to develop musical abilities, muscle flexibility and body plasticity. Serious exercises are followed by games and dances such as the polka, the waltz and the tango. (APN photo)